

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM AND THE HEALTH AND WEALTH GOSPEL

Matthew 8:14-17; 9:14-17

Theme of Matthew: "Behold your King is coming to you" (Zech.9:9 with Matt.21:4-5)

I. IF HEALING IS FOUND IN THE ATONEMENT THEN CHRISTIANS SHOULDN'T GET SICK, RIGHT?

- A. "Your chains will be shattered, your fetters crushed, your troubles healed, if you only believe--for where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (Aimee Semple McPherson). The implication is that if you are not healed, it's because of a lack of faith.
- B. Oral Roberts taught, "Sickness is not part of God's plan and not devised by God's will."
- C. The Scriptures indicate that during His earthly ministry He was not wealthy (Matthew 8:20; 2 Corinthians 8:9).

One health and wealth preacher's rendition of Psalm 23:

"The Lord is my banker; my credit is good. He maketh me to lie down in the consciousness of omnipresent abundance; He giveth me the key to His strong box; He restoreth my faith in His riches; He guideth me in the paths of prosperity for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk in the very shadow of debt, I shall fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thou preparest a way for me in the presence of the collector; Thou fillest my wallet with plenty; my measure runneth over. Surely goodness and plenty will follow me all the days of my life, And I shall do business in the name of the Lord forever."

Citation: H. Terris Newman, writing in *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 1, Spring 1990, p. 45, recording Charles Fillmore's rendition of Psalm 23. Quoted at: [http://www.watchman.org/rektop/health\\$.htm](http://www.watchman.org/rektop/health$.htm)

II. IT IS NOT ALWAYS GOD'S WILL THAT WE BE PHYSICALLY WHOLE AND HEALTHY IN THIS AGE (Exodus 4:11)

- A. The Scriptures teach that the bodies of every Christian are currently decaying (2 Corinthians 4:16; cf. 1 Cor.15:51-55).
- B. Timothy's stomach (1 Timothy 5:23)
- C. Trophimus (2 Timothy 4:20)
- D. Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25-27)
- E. Paul (2 Corinthians 12:7-9; **Galatians 4:13-15**; cf. 2 Corinthians 11:23-33)

"With Calvin, we must recognize that as Christ's whole life was nothing but a sort of perpetual cross, so the Christian life in its entirety, not just certain parts, is to be a continual cross (Institutes, 3:8:1, 2)" (Richard Gaffin, *The Usefulness of the Cross*).

III. PRAYER FOR HEALING SHOULD BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY

- A. "Is anyone among you sick? He must call for the elders of the church..." (**James 5:13-16**; see James 1:2-4).

Gordon Keddie calls James 5:13-16, "The definitive Scripture passage on the means of dealing with sickness...The anointing with oil probably refers to contemporary medical practice, although it may be symbolic of the work of the Holy Spirit (or both of these) [see Mark 6:13]. What is beyond debate is that prayer and, at that the prayer of the elders - not the ministrations of those who fancy themselves to have a 'gift of healing' - is the normative context in which sickness is to be faced and the means appointed by God by which the promise of healing will be claimed" (*You are My Witnesses*; Appendix A, pp.333-334).

B. Physical healing is _____ in the atonement and physical healing is something we *sometimes* enjoy in this sin cursed world.

“Cults are the unpaid bills of the church.”

C. Bodily wholeness will only be found when Jesus returns bodily and gives us our new resurrection bodies that will be like His (see Romans 8:30; Philippians 3:21).

1. The Kingdom comes in two stages; it is both “now” and “not yet”.

2. Jesus taught us to pray, “Thy Kingdom Come” (Matthew 6:10).

3. Jesus also proclaimed that the Kingdom had come...because He is the King (Matthew 4:23 with 9:35; 12:28).

IV. THE FIRST QUESTION JOHN’S DISCIPLES ASK IN MATTHEW’S GOSPEL (Matthew 9:14-17; {Matthew 11:2-6 is the second question John’s disciples asked})

A. Fasting was not only unnecessary for Jesus’ disciples; it would have missed the entire point of Jesus’ miracles! (Matthew 9:14-17 with Zechariah 8:19-23; cf. John 3:29; 16:16-22)

B. Jesus answered their question with a question (Matthew 9:15).

C. So long as the King of the Kingdom was present on earth, there was no reason to fast. Jesus is basically saying to John’s disciples, “Give my disciples a good reason to fast!”

✓ Wherever I go, there is no death

✓ There are no tears

✓ There is no sickness or disease

✓ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up (**Matthew 11:2-6**)!

D. “the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast” (Matthew 9:15b).

E. In this age, Jesus has given His disciples a cross to bear (Matthew 10:38; 16:24; cf. John 16:33; Romans 6:2-10; 8:17; 2 Corinthians 1:5; 4:8-10; Phil.1:29). At the consummation of the Kingdom, there will be no more death, mourning, crying or pain (**Revelation 21:2-5**).

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer. Is Jesus the Savior of your life? Do you trust in Him for salvation from sin and for the salvation of your body from disease, affliction, and death?

Is physical healing guaranteed in the atonement? If so, then why aren’t Christians always healed of their diseases and infirmities?

Did you know that it is a biblical imperative to call the elders when you are sick? “Is anyone among you sick? He must call for the elders of the church...” (James 5:13-16; see James 1:2-4) Will you commit yourself to doing this in the future?

Why should we give thanks to God for the atonement when we enjoy health or are healed from disease and infirmity?

Why did the Apostle Paul tell Timothy to use a little wine for the sake of his stomach and his frequent ailments? (1 Timothy 5:23) Why didn’t Paul just heal Timothy?

Of what benefit are doctors? How does the “healing” work of doctors differ from the healing work of Jesus?

Is divine blessing always synonymous with health and wealth (Psalm 73; Prov.11:4,28; 15:16; 16:8,16,19; 19:1; 22:1; 28:6)?

